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Non-Fault Tolerant Network Nodes in a Multiple Fault Tolerant Network

Field of the Invention

The invention relates generally to computer networks, and more specifically to a method and apparatus providing non-fault tolerant network node operability in a fault-tolerant network.

Notice of Copening Applications

This application is related to the following copending applications, which are hereby incorporated by reference:

“Fault Tolerant Networking”, serial number 09/188,976, and

~~Atty. docket number 256.044usi~~

Background of the Invention

Computer networks have become increasingly important to communication and productivity in environments where computers are utilized for work. Electronic mail has in many situations replaced paper mail and faxes as a means of distribution of information, and the availability of vast amounts of information on the Internet has become an invaluable resource both for many work-related and personal tasks. The ability to exchange data over computer networks also enables sharing of computer resources such as printers in a work environment, and enables centralized network-based management of the networked computers.